

Congress for Kids: The Three Branches of Government

The men who wrote the Constitution were afraid that if one _____ or one _____ received too much power, the United States would be under the rule of another _____ or _____. To prevent this, they divided the new government into three parts, or _____



Executive Branch

- Headed by the _____
- Main job(s): _____ (enforces) federal laws and recommends new ones



Legislative Branch

- Headed by _____
- Two parts ("houses"): _____ and _____
- Main job: _____ the laws



Judicial Branch

- Headed by the _____
- Main job: _____ the Constitution (deciding what it means!)








Checks and Balances

- System was built so that no one _____ could become too _____
- Examples:
 - President can _____ a law passed by Congress
 - Congress can _____ a veto with a 2/3 vote in both houses
 - Supreme Court may declare a law passed by Congress to be _____
 - Members of the Supreme court are appointed by the _____ and have to be approved by the _____



House of Representatives

- There must be at least _____ representative from each state.
- Representation is based on _____. States with _____ populations have more representatives than states with _____ populations.
- Today there are _____ members of the House of Representatives.
- Representatives ("Congressmen") serve for a period of _____ years.

	<p>Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are _____ Senators from each state, regardless of _____ size. • Senators serve for a period of _____ years. • The Senate has the power to approve or reject _____ and _____.
	<p>Making Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any member of Congress can introduce a “_____” • Only members of the House may introduce bills that deal with _____ or _____. • A bill must be passed by _____ houses of Congress to become a _____.
	<p>Executive Branch - Presidency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once Congress has _____ a bill it is sent to the _____. ○ If he/she _____ the bill it becomes a law. ○ He/she can send the bill back to Congress for _____. ○ He/she can _____ to forbid it from becoming a law. • The President is elected for a term of _____ years.
	<p>Impeachment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution gives the _____ the right to impeach the president. • _____ means that a charge of misconduct is filed against the president. • The _____ has the power to try impeachment cases like a court. • _____ of the Senators must vote for conviction.
	<p>The Judicial Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The _____ heads the judicial branch of the United States government. • The “justices” of the Supreme Court are responsible for _____ the Constitution. • The Supreme Court can declare a law passed by Congress or an action of the president to be “_____,” meaning it goes against what is written in the Constitution.